REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of April 16, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claim 14 has been amended and new claims 16 and 17 have been added. Thus, claims 8-17 are currently pending in the present application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Parkyn, Jr. et al. (US 6,560,038). On pages 4-9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkyn. Further, on pages 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkyn in view of Isokawa (US 7,098,485). For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 8 recites an indicator lamp comprising a light-emitting element and a light-emitting element lens. The light-emitting element lens of claim 8 includes a lens body having a light-emitting element mounting cavity formed at a rear of the lens body, with the light-emitting element being mounted in the light-emitting element mounting cavity, and with the lens body having an inverted conically shaped peripheral surface for fully reflecting and forwardly re-directing light emitted from the light-emitting element. Claim 8 also recites that *the peripheral surface has three sloped sections, each of the sloped sections being sloped relative to an axis of the light-emitting element lens at an angle different from that of the other sloped sections so as to define circumferential corners at points of discontinuity between adjacent ones of the three sloped sections*, wherein the circumferential corners are arranged so as to scatter light emitted from the light-emitting element forwardly to provide concentric emission light fluxes as viewed from a side of the front surface of the light-emitting element lens.

Independent claim 12 recites an indicator lamp comprising a light-emitting element and a lens body having a diameter which increases as distance from the light-emitting element increases in a forward direction. The light-emitting element of claim 12 is disposed at a rear of the lens body and emits light to be fully reflected by a peripheral surface of the lens body and to

proceed forwardly thereof. Claim 12 recites that *the peripheral surface has three sloped sections, each of the sloped sections being sloped relative to an axis of the lens body at an angle different from that of the other sloped sections so as to define circumferential corners at points of discontinuity between adjacent ones of the three sloped sections*, with the lens body having a substantially cylindrical cavity formed at the rear of the lens body so as to accommodate the light-emitting element. Claim 12 further recites that light emitted from the light-emitting element so as to be directed toward a peripheral surface of the cavity is incident on the lens body at angles less than a full reflection angle corresponding to a refractive index of the lens body, passes through the lens body, and is incident on the peripheral surface of the lens body to be fully reflected and proceed forwardly of the lens body, and that light emitted from the light-emitting element so as to be directed toward a front surface of the cavity is incident on the lens body at angles less than the full reflection angle and passes through the lens body to directly proceed forwardly of the lens body.

Parkyn discloses a non-imaging coupler which, as shown in Fig. 4, includes a cavity 20c, a curved side wall 102, a cylindrical section 103 and an exit face 104. However, Parkyn does not disclose a peripheral surface having *three sloped sections, with each of the sloped sections being sloped relative to an axis of the light-emitting element lens at an angle different from that of the other sloped sections so as to define circumferential corners at points of discontinuity between adjacent ones of the three sloped sections*, as required by independent claims 8 and 12.

On pages 3 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the portions 102a, 102b and 103 of the side wall of Parkyn constitute the three sloped sections as defined in independent claims 8 and 12. However, Parkyn discloses that section 102a is a curved surface having an increasing curvature, section 102b is a portion of a parabola, and that section 103 is cylindrical. In this regard, Parkyn discloses that section 102b is arranged between sections 102a and 103, and that section 102b is oriented and sized to smoothly join with section 102a and 103 (column 3, lines 12-14). Therefore, Parkyn discloses three sections in which adjacent ones of the three sections are joined together smoothly (*i.e.*, with no points of discontinuity), and therefore does not disclose a lens body which includes a peripheral surface having three sloped sections, with each of the sloped sections being sloped relative to an axis of the light-emitting element lens at

an angle different from that of the other sloped sections so as to define circumferential corners at points of discontinuity between adjacent ones of the three sloped sections, as required by independent claims 8 and 12.

Further, as indicated above, Parkyn discloses that section 102a is a curved surface having an increasing curvature, section 102b is a portion of a parabola, and that section 103 is cylindrical. In this regard, as Parkyn discloses that section 103 is cylindrical, the surface 103 is parallel to the axis of the light-emitting element lens, as shown in Fig. 3, and therefore Parkyn does not disclose a lens body which includes a peripheral surface having three sloped sections, with each of the sloped sections being sloped relative to an axis of the light-emitting element lens, as required by independent claims 8 and 12.

Independent claim 14, as amended, recites an indicator lamp comprising a light-emitting element, and a lens body having a cavity extending from a rear of the lens body, with the cavity having a substantially cylindrical front portion. Further, claim 14 recites that *the cavity includes a rear portion having a diameter greater than that of the front portion and being defined by a stepped extension surface, with the stepped extension surface being tapered radially outwardly and toward a front of the lens body.* Claim 14 also recites that a front surface of the cavity is convex and projects toward a front surface of the lens body, with the light-emitting element being arranged with the cavity. Claim 14 also recites a full reflection lens disposed atop the light-emitting element within the cavity, with the light-emitting element emitting light to be reflected by the full reflection lens and proceed forwardly of the full reflection lens. Claim 14 further recites that the full reflection lens includes a convex lens portion being disposed atop the light-emitting element, with the convex lens portion being formed by filling a transparent polymer material into a frame disposed so as to surround the light-emitting element from above the frame so as to be raised in a convex shape.

As discussed above, Parkyn discloses a non-imaging coupler which, as shown in Fig. 4, includes a cavity 20c, a curved side wall 102, a cylindrical section 103 and an exit face 104. However, Parkyn does not disclose a cavity which includes a substantially cylindrical front portion, and which includes *a rear portion having a diameter greater than that of the front*

portion and being defined by a stepped extension surface, with the stepped extension surface being tapered radially outwardly and toward a front of the lens body, as required by independent claim 14. Rather, Parkyn only discloses that cavity 20c is cylindrical in cross-section, and does not disclose a cavity which includes a rear section defined by a stepped extension surface, with the stepped extension surface being tapered radially outwardly and toward a front of the lens body, as required by independent claim 14.

Therefore, for the reasons presented above, it is believed apparent that the present invention as recited in independent claims 8, 12 and 14 is not disclosed or suggested by the Parkyn reference.

It is noted that the Examiner cited the Isokawa reference as disclosing semi-circular ridges around a central convex region of the lens. However, it is noted that Isokawa does not cure the defects of the Parkyn reference as discussed above.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 12 and 14, as well as claims 9-11, 13 and 15-17 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

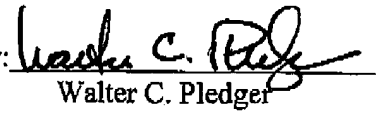
In addition, the Examiner's attention is directed to the dependent claims which further define the present invention over the prior art. For example, dependent claims 16 and 17 (which depend from independent claims 8 and 12, respectively) recite that *each of the three sloped sections is a linearly sloped section*. In this regard, it is noted that Parkyn discloses a body having curved sections 102a and 102b, and therefore does not disclose linearly sloped sections as required by dependent claims 16 and 17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshio SHIMADA

By: 

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